

Remarks:

Claims 1 and 4-9 and 17-20 remain in this case and all claims stand rejected.

In the subject Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 8, and 9 and 17-20 as obvious over Schubert in view of Walsh, Helms, and Fishbine. The teachings of Schubert, Walsh, and Helms have been previously discussed in detail, and this discussion will not be repeated here. Further, Fishbine was disclosed initially to the Examiner in an Information Disclosure Statement.

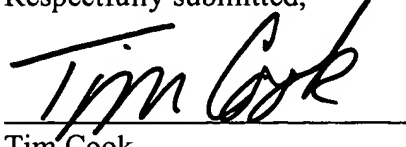
In response to the Examiner rejection of the claims, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the present invention includes a chip recognition system in the central computer to determine the value of the wagers in each of the wagering locations, the recognition system including an algorithm which takes into account multiple image component planes hue, saturation, and lightness; or particle analysis correlation; or a combination of these techniques. This feature is neither shown nor suggested by the references cited by the Examiner.

Further, the Examiner has continued to misconstrue the teachings of Schubert. Schubert teaches a plurality of video cameras positioned underneath a chip tray with the cameras aimed outward toward the gamblers. The cameras are not positioned behind an arcuate wall adjacent the wagering locations, as in claim 1.

Thus, the present invention differs markedly from the art in a number of ways, among them the structure of the gaming table and the algorithm used for the identification of wagers.

If the Examiner believes that a phone conference would expedite this case to issue, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned. No additional fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Cook", written over a horizontal line.

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